



County of San Diego

ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

## **Client Advocacy Network needs volunteer mentors who can make a difference in the lives of our clients.**

### **What is the goal of Client Advocacy Network?**

The purpose of the network is to provide a strong support system for carefully selected clients who have the motivation and ability to succeed in their programs, given the proper guidance.

### **Who will mentors work with?**

Volunteer mentors work directly with our clients. In Juvenile Delinquency court, we represent children who have been accused of committing a crime. In Juvenile Dependency court we represent parents or guardians accused of physical, emotional or sexual abuse of their children. In Superior court we represent adults accused of a crime and/or a probation violation. Adult clients may also have children involved in both juvenile dependency and delinquency courts. Mentors also work with our Project Coordinator and the Alternate Public Defender attorney representing the client.

### **Why do our clients need mentors?**

Clients need gainful employment, sober living and safe housing. They also need help to follow laws, stay clean, attend anger management, domestic violence, counseling, parenting and other court mandated classes. Juveniles need a mentor for the above reasons as well as help staying away from gangs, going to school, abiding by curfew, paying restitution to the victim and adhering to their commitments. Adult clients in criminal cases need someone to reinforce their probation conditions in an easy to understand manner. Our clients need someone who will listen, advise, counsel and support them.

### **What does it take to be a mentor?**

Mentors should be mature, sensitive and patient. Mentors should have a wide variety of successful life experiences to bring to the volunteer - client relationship. Mentors should be non-judgmental, supportive and be a role model for the client.

### **What training will mentors receive?**

Each mentor will receive 8 hours of training taught by judges, lawyers, mental health experts, substance abuse experts, social workers, probation officers and investigators. After the initial training, mentors will receive ongoing training including regular meetings with the advocate coordinator.

### **What commitment is expected?**

Mentors are expected to commit 15 hours per month for at least one year.

Mentors are required to undergo a background check.

Mentors must have a CA driver's license, proof of insurance, and dependable transportation.

### **How do I apply?**

Contact Sandra Huff, Chief Investigator at (619) 446-2900, or  
Ann Bartoe, Advocate Coordinator at (858) 974-5818.